

Department of Social and Health Services

**DP Code/Title: PL-AE DLR Foster Parent Training**  
**Program Level - 010 Children's Administration**

Budget Period: 2003-05 Version: 11 2003-05 Agency Request Budget

**Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Children's Administration (CA) is requesting \$1.4 million (\$1.0 million General Fund-State (GF-S) and 8.0 FTEs to meet Section IV, the Unsafe Placements provision, of the Braams lawsuit injunction. Although the remaining four sections of the injunction were stayed pending appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court, Unsafe Placements was not. As a result, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is directed to provide additional specialized training to all foster parents and staff on sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth.

**Fiscal Detail:**

**Operating Expenditures**

	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Program 010</b>			
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	536,000	488,000	1,024,000
001-A General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi	132,000	120,000	252,000
001-C General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa	68,000	62,000	130,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>736,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>1,406,000</b>

**Staffing**

	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Annual Avg</u>
<b>Program 010 FTEs</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

**Package Description:**

In August 1998, 13 former foster children (Jessica Braams, et al) filed a complaint in the Whatcom County Superior Court alleging that conditions in Washington State's foster care system violated their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and various federal and state statutes enacted for the protection of children in foster care. The plaintiffs, who later received class-action certification from the court, sought damages for injuries suffered while in foster care, as well as injunctive relief to halt "harmful practices." On December 4, 2001, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs.

In May 2002, the court issued an injunction directed to six areas of DSHS foster care practices: stability of placements, training information and support for foster parents and children, mental and physical health, unsafe placements, and separation of siblings. DSHS appealed the injunction and was granted an emergency stay with one exception; the unsafe placement provisions of the injunction, Section IV, were not stayed. As a result, DSHS must provide additional specialized training for foster parents regarding sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth. This training satisfies the requirements of Section IV stating that DSHS may place multiple sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth in a foster home "when that home has been licensed and the foster parents [are] specially trained to deal" with these types of placements.

The specialized training will require an additional seven state trainers and one clerical, as well as video, web site, classroom applications, and contracted co-trainer/facilitator services to assist at training sessions and workshops. This level of the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) staffing and contracted training support will enable CA to present 170 training sessions each year on sexually aggressive youth, and 170 training sessions each year on physically assaultive youth to foster parents statewide.

**Narrative Justification and Impact Statement**

***How contributes to strategic plan:***

This proposal directly contributes to the CA goals to Improve the Capacity to Achieve Better Outcomes for Children and Families, and Children Will be Safe From Abuse and Neglect. Additionally, foster parent trainers will Contribute to the

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Recruitment and Retention of Foster Parents. The proposal also supports the Kids Come First Agenda.

*Performance Measure Detail*

**Program: 010**

**Goal: 03A Provide stable and permanent placements for children**

**Incremental Changes**

**Output Measures**

**FY 1**

**FY 2**

3AD Number of physically and sexually assaultive youth trainings provided for foster parents per year.

340

340

*Reason for change:*

Although most of the Braams lawsuit injunction was stayed pending appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court, Section IV pertaining to unsafe placements for children in foster care, and training for foster parents statewide on sexually aggressive and assaultive youth in foster care, was not part of the stay. DSHS is directed to provide this training. This program will provide foster parents with supportive skills to help them protect children from further abuse. It will help retain foster parents, reduce tort liability, and meet the terms of the Braams lawsuit injunction.

*Impact on clients and services:*

This proposal seeks to improve the skills of foster parents who provide care to the foster children of Washington State. Foster parents trained to deal with difficult behaviors will be better prepared to protect children in their care from further abuse.

The new FTEs will provide direct training to foster parents, provide web training, and be available to address specific issues as they arise. Without the additional staff, DLR would need to refer foster parents to community workshops to get their training. Community workshops run contrary to DLR's goal to provide training that addresses specific foster parent issues, is delivered in a timely manner, and ensures a consistent curriculum on a statewide basis.

*Impact on other state programs:*

None

*Relationship to capital budget:*

None

*Required changes to existing RCW, WAC, contract, or plan:*

None

*Alternatives explored by agency:*

An alternative to this proposal would be to provide the required training for foster parents through existing workshops; however, these workshops are generally geared to therapists, not foster parents, so DLR could not ensure a consistent curriculum.

*Budget impacts in future biennia:*

Funding would continue into future biennia at the second year funding level.

*Distinction between one-time and ongoing costs:*

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Equipment purchased for new FTEs would be a one-time cost of \$66,000. All other costs would be ongoing.

**Effects of non-funding:**

Failure to comply with court-ordered requirements may result in the court ordering further remedies, the department being held in contempt, and possible increased tort liability. Foster parents and staff will be less prepared to deal with the high needs population addressed in the court injunction.

**Expenditure Calculations and Assumptions:**

See attachment - CA PL-AE DLR Foster Parent Training.xls

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Program 010 Objects</b>			
A Salaries And Wages	381,000	381,000	762,000
B Employee Benefits	84,000	84,000	168,000
E Goods And Services	71,000	71,000	142,000
G Travel	25,000	25,000	50,000
J Capital Outlays	66,000	0	66,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	91,000	91,000	182,000
T Intra-Agency Reimbursements	18,000	18,000	36,000
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>736,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>1,406,000</b>

**DSHS Source Code Detail**

<u>Program 010</u>	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Fund 001-1, General Fund - Basic Account-State</b>			
<u>Sources</u> <u>Title</u>			
0011 General Fund State	536,000	488,000	1,024,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-1</i>	<b>536,000</b>	<b>488,000</b>	<b>1,024,000</b>
<b>Fund 001-A, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi</b>			
<u>Sources</u> <u>Title</u>			
658L Title IV-E-Foster Care (50%)	132,000	120,000	252,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-A</i>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>
<b>Fund 001-C, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa</b>			
<u>Sources</u> <u>Title</u>			
19TA Title XIX Assistance (FMAP)	68,000	62,000	130,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-C</i>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
<b>Total Program 010</b>	<b>736,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>1,406,000</b>